



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Division of Economic Support

Bureau of Welfare Initiatives

**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
FSET Administrative & Provider Agencies
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies**

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BWSP OPERATIONS MEMO

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Non W-2 ☒ **W-2** ☐ **CC** ☐

PRIORITY: URGENT

SUBJECT: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PURCHASE PLAN (MAPP)

CROSS REFERENCE: 1999 Wisconsin Act 9
§ 49.472, Wis. Stats.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/15/2000

PURPOSE

This Operations Memo:

- Provides a summary of a new Medicaid subprogram called the Medicaid Purchase Plan.
- Explains the implementation schedule and requirements for the new Medicaid subprogram, the Medicaid Purchase Plan.
- Includes an attachment that explains the policies and processes for the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP).

BACKGROUND

Section 4733 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33) allows states to make available a new subprogram for individuals with disabilities whose net family income is below 250% of the federal poverty level. In Wisconsin, this subprogram is called the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP) and was created by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9. Eligibility for MAPP will be determined by the county economic support (ES) agency.

Goals of MAPP are:

- Encourage people with disabilities to earn more income without risking loss of health and long term care coverage.
- Allow people with disabilities to save more towards retirement or home ownership, or other financial independence opportunities.
- Increase the ability of people with disabilities to purchase services that enhance independence.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP) is a new subprogram of the Medicaid program. It was created and made an optional categorically needy subprogram under the federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The Department was authorized in the 1999-2001 Biennial Budget (1999 Wisconsin Act 9) to implement this program.

Nonfinancial

MAPP provides Medicaid benefits to persons who are disabled and who are either working or participating in a Health and Employment Counseling program. The determination of disability for MAPP is still determined using the Disability Determination Bureau and continues to use SSI Disability requirements, except as they relate directly to the ability of the individual to work.

Note: The Health and Employment Counseling (HEC) portion of the MAPP program will not be ready for the March 15, 2000 implementation date. This policy and process document does not include any information concerning how the HEC program is integrated with the eligibility determination and post-eligibility processes. More information and a revised policy and process document will be distributed with specifics about the HEC program and its place within the eligibility and post-eligibility processes.

Financial

The MAPP program is available to qualifying persons whose family income is less than 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and whose individual countable assets do not exceed \$15,000.

Premiums

For those individuals whose own income exceeds 150% FPL a premium will be required as a condition of eligibility. The premium is based upon 3% of the individual's earnings as well as a portion of the individual's unearned income.

Other

Persons enrolled in MAPP are allowed to create and maintain an Independence Account. The Independence Account is exempt from consideration in the Medicaid Purchase Plan. The Independence Account must be a financial account. The eligible individual can place up to 50% of his or her earnings in a 12-month period into the Independence Account.

CARES

The program will be implemented without any changes being made to CARES. This means that local agency staff must determine eligibility, certify eligibility and handle all other tasks manually. The Department of Health and Family Services will be working with DWD over the coming months to implement MAPP in CARES, but must first make changes to CARES associated with Family Care before beginning this work. The earliest that CARES could be changed to incorporate MAPP is the end of this year.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN & SCHEDULE

The Medicaid Purchase Plan must be implemented on March 15, 2000.

This program must be implemented on this date by state law and in order to achieve the projected savings for the program. These savings, as projected by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, will be achieved by moving nearly 700 individuals from the fully state funded Community Options Program (COP) into the state/federally funded MAPP program.

Training is not scheduled on MAPP policies and processes until after the implementation date.

In order to protect the March 15, 2000 implementation date and also accommodate our training schedule, the Department is directing staff to delay determining MAPP eligibility until after they have been trained.

For individuals who apply on or after March 15, 2000, but before the agency staff can be trained, local agency staff must:

1. Allow these individuals to apply for Medicaid, including MAPP, beginning March 15, 2000.
2. Process these applications in CARES to determine whether the individual is eligible for Medicaid (excluding MAPP).
3. For those individuals who indicate, either directly or indirectly, that they are disabled, complete the regular Medicaid disability application process, including the completion of the Medicaid Disability Application (MADA). In addition to the regular process, ask the individual if s/he is working or interested in work or in applying for MAPP. If they are, please complete and include the MAPP Disability Determination Transmittal Form.
4. For those individuals who have been determined disabled, but who are not eligible for those Medicaid subprograms that occur in the cascade prior to MAPP, keep a log of individuals who are disabled and working who are determined ineligible for Medicaid because of excess income or assets. This includes both those individuals who applied on or after March 15, 2000, but also those cases that closed that meet the same criteria on or after March 15, 2000. Local staff should send a manual notice explaining the delay in the

determination of MAPP eligibility pending training. This will protect the application date for these individuals.

Once training has been completed for a worker, these applications and terminations will need to have their Medicaid and MAPP eligibility redetermined.

CONTACT

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Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.